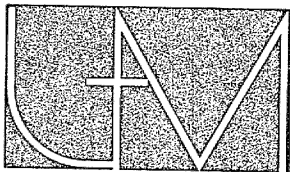


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THE TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS



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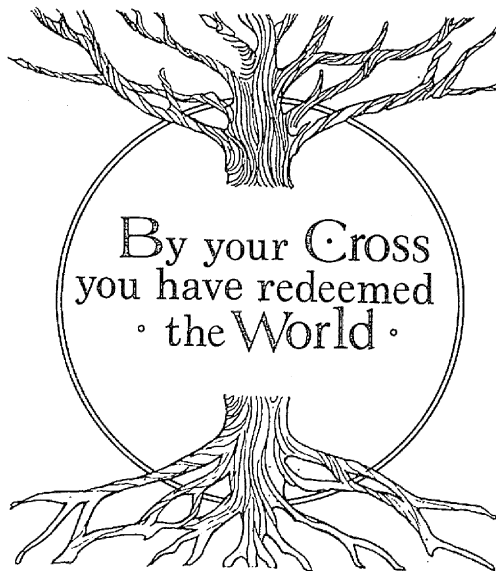
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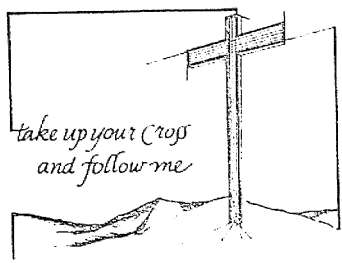
RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

Volume III Issue 2 September 12, 1986



Gospel Alleluia Verse by Mary Beth Owens

Sunday, September 14, 1986



GOD WILL NOT LET US GO ALONE.

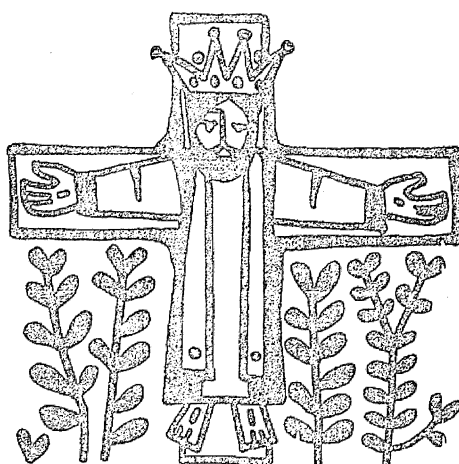
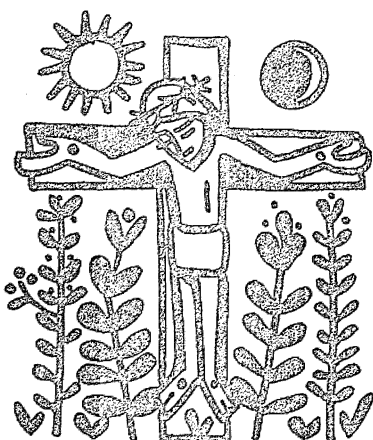
Six months after Good Friday the liturgy presents the Triumph of the Cross. After the emperor Constantine recognized Christianity early in the Fourth Century, his mother, (Saint) Helena, travelled to the Holy Land, and efforts were made to uncover the cross of Jesus. Churches were built in the sacred places, and today's feast commemorates the celebration of the holy cross and the holy land. Relics of the true cross were treasured. Even the smallest splinter of that wood was sacred. Impregnated with the blood of Jesus, the relic of the cross remained in touch with the body of Jesus. Jeweled reliquaries displayed the holy cross. What then was a despised instrument of ignominious death was now recognized as the way the Son of God touched us with a great love. No greater love has anyone, than to lay down their life for their friends.

Were a lifeguard to plunge into the deep to save us, we would call his or her rescue our salvation. All during his life, Jesus reached out to touch those drowning in a sea of suffering around him. He reached out his hands with healing, compassion, and a love that excluded no one, not leper not sinner. Love is measured by how profoundly we bond with people, how deeply we are committed to their well being. The lifeguard who hangs on to the one drowning, even at the cost of going down with them, reveals a love that would not let go. Drowning in our hatred and entangled motives of love gone astray, we take our savior down into the depths. And Jesus, who had embraced us all along the road to Jerusalem, was not about to let go of us even in a moment of danger to himself. He came to save us, even if we took him with us under the waters of death.

Human beings are tangled lovers, bundles of energy that wishes to give but finds itself in knots that keep all the goodness tied up inside. The cross is the willing entanglement of God in humankind's agony. A wounded animal will bite the hand that come with healing medicine to put on its wounds. It does not understand that the outreached gesture of kindness will save its life; it fears that another touch is another attack. Where there is love, it reads fear. Where there is friend, it sees enemy. Its own pain is so pressing, and its uncertainty so constant. But if you loved the wounded animal enough, you might take hold of it with love despite being bitten by the one you would save. Tangled lovers bite the hand that would feed them. The cross is the measure of Jesus' unwillingness to count the cost of love. He would not let us go from his healing hands even if we in our panic struck him.

The blood that soaked into the wood of the cross never to be removed tells of how the Son of God made flesh wished to bond with us. His life is infused into our everyday. No matter what our predicament, God will not let us go alone. The cross we hang on our walls and place around our necks is the symbol of God's involvement to the end of life with us. The nails in the wood speak of the fastness of his love. The cross is the rape of God, a violence done by a sinful humanity, that does not know how to overcome its fear and emptiness. "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Jesus saves our humanity that does not believe anyone could embrace it precisely at its worst. Thus, the revelation of the cross as God's abiding love is given in the Eucharist, when Jesus comes again with forgiveness to break bread with those who in their woundedness shed his blood in the mystery of the holy cross.

Father Nick Ayo, C.S.C.
Chaplain, Stanford Hall



**Skip a meal.
So others can eat.**

NOV 20th

The November 20, you thousands of people across the country will be learning about the causes of world hunger. Take part in Oxfam America's 13th annual 'Fast for A World Harvest'! Skip a meal! The money you would have spent on that meal, that support will go to emergency relief and long-term self-help projects in the Philippines, Southern Africa and other areas of the Third World to help for a free fast and to prepare a fast for the your community.

Fast For A World Harvest

Oxfam America

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Information Night

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NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING.... One of those phrases you may have heard in the last few years, but perhaps know little about.

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In the broadest sense, Natural Family Planning refers to methods of avoiding or achieving pregnancy through cooperation with a couple's own fertility patterns. It is effective, safe, a cooperative venture, feasible to use and morally acceptable.

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Other questions about the method can be answered at an open information evening this Monday night, September 15th, at 7pm in Hayes-Healy auditorium. Then, for those engaged or married couples who are interested, a two-evening class series will begin the following Monday.

For more information, call 237-7401 or 277-8807.

Monday, Sept. 15th
7pm

in Hayes-Healy Auditorium